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2 T. Bingham

BOROUGH OF REIGATE

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
T. H. Bingham, M.D., D.P.H.

Together with the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
G. Janes, M.R.S.H.,
M.A.P.H.I.

1957

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BOROUGH OF REIGATE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1957

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough of Reigate in the year 1957. The Report is drawn up generally in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, as indicated in Circular 1/58, and in the main follows the same arrangement as earlier issues in the same series.

The only noteworthy epidemiological events were an extensive outbreak of measles in the early part of the year and epidemic prevalence of influenza of Asian type in the late Autumn, both infections being clinically mild in type and associated with very low mortality. Acute poliomyelitis was not unduly prevalent; of the nine reported cases only one was of paralytic type, and six of the remainder had very little clinical evidence of poliomyelitis infection. The rates of prevalence of other acute infectious illness and of respiratory tuberculosis were generally very much lower than usual. Reference is made to a small outbreak of bacterial food poisoning, in which the infection was fairly conclusively traced to a food handler, and to epidemiological investigations at three local schools following the occurrence of infectious cases of respiratory tuberculosis.

With regard to the prevention of infectious illness, attention is again drawn to the satisfactory position with regard to the acceptance of protective inoculation against the range of diseases for which effective immunising agents are now available. The recent introduction of a modified type of the Salk vaccine for protective inoculation against paralytic poliomyelitis is an important advance in the field of preventive action, though its ultimate value and possible limitations can only be fully assessed in the light of experience. A very substantial proportion of the children in the eligible age groups have been registered for vaccination against poliomyelitis, but, in view of the small quantities of vaccine received during the year, it was not possible to complete the treatment of all registered applicants.

On the whole, the statistical particulars for 1957 compare favourably with those for the past few years. The recorded birth rate of 13.8 is somewhat below the average for the Borough and, when adjusted, is appreciably less than that for the country as a whole. The proportion of infants who died in their first year and of those registered as stillborn, though not reaching the record low levels of 1956, are still very much lower than usual and are little more than one-half of the corresponding rates for England and Wales. The recorded death rate of 11.6 is, with one exception, the lowest in the past twenty years, the exception being in 1948, when the death rate fell to 10.8. The adjusted rate of 9.9 for the Borough compares with 11.5 for England and Wales. Reference is made to a rise in maternal mortality and to a reduction in the relative numbers of deaths ascribed to other specified causes, particularly cancer and malignant disease, tuberculosis of the lungs and injuries resulting from accidents, including motor vehicle accidents.

It would scarcely be possible to report in detail on the various routine activities of the Public Health Department which, though they may possibly not be spectacular, are nevertheless essential for the prevention of disease and the promotion of the public health. Brief reference is made, however, to the substantial progress made during the year in implementing the Council's five-year programme for the clearance of unfit houses and to the measures taken to ensure a satisfactory standard of purity and quality of water, milk and food supplies, the prevention of atmospheric pollution, sanitary inspection, supervision of caravan and camping sites, duties under the Factories Acts, disinfection and disinfection and other matters having a direct bearing on environmental hygiene.

I have again to record my sincere appreciation of the efficient and conscientious service rendered by my staff, the assistance and close co-operation of officials engaged in other department of the Corporation and the support and consideration kindly extended to me throughout the year by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,


Your obedient Servant,

T. H. BINGHAM

Medical Officer of Health.

Caberfeigh,
Redhill.

28th August, 1958.



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SECTION I

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (Land and Inland Water)	10,255
Population, Census 1951	..	..	..	..	42,248
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-year, 1957	..	..	..	..	49,330
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1957 according to Rate Books	..	..	..	..	14,638
Rateable Value (1957)	..	..	..	..	£818,565
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	£3,220

Population

The population of the Borough, including members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area, was estimated by the Registrar-General to be 49,330 at mid-year, 1957. This represents a population increment of 600, or 1.2 per cent, in the preceding twelve months, of which 117 is attributable to natural increase (i.e. the number by which the live births exceeded the total deaths) and 483 to migration into the area.

The population gain by natural increase is much greater than usual because of the fall in the recorded death rate in 1957. The gain by migration is also above the average, if the initial movement of population into the London County Council's housing estate at Merstham is disregarded.

Births

A total of 681 live infants (363 males and 318 females) were born to women normally resident in the Borough. The recorded birth rate for the year was, therefore, 13.80 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 14.26 in 1956, 13.65 in 1955 and an average rate of 14.19 for the preceding five years. To make allowance for differences in the age and sex distribution of the local population as compared with that of the country as a whole, and to take into account the presence of sterile population in certain institutions in the Borough, the recorded birth rate is adjusted by the application of the "area comparability factor". When so adjusted the local birth rate for 1957 is advanced to 13.9, which compares with 16.1 for England and Wales.

The illegitimacy rate was 36 per 1,000 live births which, though appreciably lower than in 1956, approximates to the average for the Borough and is well below the national rate of 46.

The decline in the birth rate in 1957 was accompanied by a rise in the rate of mortality of infants under the age of one year and in the proportion registered as stillborn, as compared with the corresponding rates for 1956, when both rates reached record low levels. In both instances, however, these rates remain unusually low, being little more than one-half of those for England and Wales.

TABLE I

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:-

Legitimate	..	..	Males	345	Females	311	Total	656
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	18	Females	7	Total	25

Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13.8
Do. 1956	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.2
Do. for the five years 1952 to 1956	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.3

Still Births

Legitimate	..	..	Males	3	Females	5	Total	8
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	-	Females	-	Total	-

Rate per 1,000 total births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.6
Do. do. 1956	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8.5

Deaths (nett):-

Males	..	283	Females	..	281	Total	564
Do. 1956:-							
Males	..	264	Females	..	308	Total	592

Death Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.6
Do. 1956	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.1
Do. for the five years 1952 to 1956	12.6

Percentage of total deaths occurring in Public

<u>Institutions</u>	55.1
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Maternal Mortality:-

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	..	2
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	..	2.9

Infant Mortality:-

Deaths of infants under one year of age:-								
Legitimate	..	..	Males	7	Females	2	Total	9
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	-	Females	-	Total	-

Infant Death Rate:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	13.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	13.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	Nil

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age:-

Legitimate	..	..	Males	6	Females	-	Total	6
Illegitimate	..	..	Males	-	Females	-	Total	-

Deaths from:-

Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	88
Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Gastro-enteritis (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0

Deaths

The deaths assigned to the area include those of Borough residents who died elsewhere and members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area, but exclude those of temporary residents, which are transferred to the districts in which they normally resided. The total number of deaths so assigned was 564, of which 283 were of males and 281 of females.

The death rate calculated on this total is 11.61 per 1,000 of the estimated population and is the lowest observed in the Borough for several years. When adjusted in the prescribed manner for purposes of comparison, the local rate is reduced to 9.9 which compares with 11.5 for England and Wales in the same period.

The numbers of deaths of each sex in various age groups were as follows:-

<u>Age group</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
0 - 1 years ..	7	2	9
1 - 5 years ..	2	1	3
5 - 10 years ..	1	2	3
10 - 15 years ..	3	1	4
15 - 20 years ..	-	3	3
20 - 30 years ..	1	1	2
30 - 40 years ..	5	7	12
40 - 50 years ..	13	5	18
50 - 60 years ..	41	25	66
60 - 70 years ..	54	49	103
70 - 80 years ..	89	81	170
80 - 90 years ..	64	85	149
90 and upwards ..	3	19	22
	<u>283</u>	<u>281</u>	<u>564</u>

The number of infants who died in their first year is relatively small and represents an infant mortality of 13.2 per 1,000 live births, as compared with 7.1 in 1956 (the lowest yet recorded), 16.71 in 1955 and an average rate of 25.7 in the preceding ten years; the rate for England and Wales in 1957 was 23.1. All the infant deaths took place in hospitals and, with two exceptions, were attributed to extreme prematurity or congenital malformations of such degree that survival could scarcely be expected.

Deaths from diseases of the heart and circulation, which represent rather more than one-half of the total deaths from all causes, are no greater than usual, though a substantially larger proportion were attributed to coronary disease, affecting both sexes but more marked in females.

All forms of cancer and malignant disease made much less than their usual contribution to the general death rate. The total mortality from this cause was at the rate of 1.84 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 1.99 in 1956, 2.11 in 1955 and an average rate of 2.05 in the preceding ten years. The Borough death rate from cancer, when adjusted, is reduced to 1.56 which compares very favourably with the corresponding rate for England and Wales, which was 2.09.

Reference has been made in previous reports to the national increase in the annual number of deaths ascribed to cancer of the lung in the past ten years or so, particularly amongst males of middle age. The same upward trend has been reflected in local statistics, though it is of interest to note that mortality from this cause in 1957 was slightly below the ten years average for the Borough and was very much lower than the national rate in the same period.

The deaths from influenza were mainly of persons in the advanced age groups and occurred in the early Autumn months, when the Asian type of the disease was almost epidemic. It is probable that influenza was an antecedent condition in several of the fatal cases of pneumonia not designated as influenzal in type. Otherwise, the mortality from infectious diseases, and particularly from those affecting the nervous system, was exceptionally low. The death rate from tuberculosis of the lungs was one of the lowest yet experienced in the Borough; no mortality was recorded from tuberculosis of other organs.

Two women died from maternal causes - in one case from criminally induced abortion and in the other from an unforeseen accident of pregnancy. The maternal death rate for the year was, therefore, 2.9 per 1,000 total births, which is very much higher than usual.

There was a very substantial reduction in the number of fatal accidents and, in particular, of those in which motor vehicles were concerned; three people were killed in motor vehicle accidents in 1957 as compared with eight in 1956. Accidents in the home accounted for four deaths, all of elderly persons, as compared with nine in the previous year. It is disquieting to record that many more deaths resulted from suicide and that most of these were of persons in early middle life.

The numbers of deaths ascribed to other specified causes do not call for special comment.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47 (As amended by the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951)

It was not necessary to exercise the powers given under this Section to secure the removal to hospital or other suitable premises of persons who were suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, were living in insanitary conditions and were unable to devote to themselves, and were not receiving from others, the care and attention they required.

There were reports of three cases in which it appeared that such action might be considered. All were fully investigated. In one case it was eventually possible, with the assistance and co-operation of the Divisional Welfare Officer and of the medical practitioner in attendance, to induce the person concerned to accept voluntary admission to an institution for old people. In the other two cases the assistance forthcoming from the home help, welfare, district nursing and general public health services, and from voluntary agencies, was sufficient to effect such improvement in the general standard of care and in the sanitary condition of the premises that further action was not necessary.

Attention was also given to several aged and infirm persons who were found to be living under very unsatisfactory conditions, and were in some measure suffering from neglect, though not to such extent as to warrant action for compulsory removal. The primary needs of most of these cases were adequately met with the help of the existing domiciliary services.

TABLE II

Causes of Death in the Borough of Reigate
during 1957

						E	F	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..		2	1	3
2.	Tuberculosis, other forms	..	..	..		-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic diseases	..	..	..		1	1	2
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	..	..	..		-	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
8.	Measles	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases					1	-	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..		6	7	13
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus				..	13	3	16
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..		-	9	9
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..		-	5	5
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms					24	21	45
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..		-	1	1
16.	Diabetes	..	..	..	..	-	2	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system				..	34	60	94
18.	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..		61	44	105
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..			9	5	14
20.	Other heart disease	..	..	..		36	50	86
21.	Other circulatory disease	..	..	..		11	9	20
22.	Influenza	..	..	..	..	5	6	11
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	13	13	26
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	13	3	16
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	..				1	-	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..			3	1	4
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea				..	2	2	4
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..		2	-	2
29.	Hyperlasia of prostate	..	..	..		4	-	4
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..			-	2	2
31.	Congenital malformations	..	..	..		5	1	6
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases					25	26	51
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..		1	2	3
34.	All other accidents	..	..	..		8	2	10
35.	Suicide	..	..	..	..	3	5	8
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..	..			-	-	-
Totals						283	281	564

SECTION II

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

There was no important extension of the public water supply during the year, except in connection with new building development.

With the exception of twelve cottages which depend on a private well for their water supply, one bungalow dwelling which has a piped supply from a nearby spring and 39 cottages with an intermediate storage tank, all dwelling-houses in the Borough have a continuous and direct supply from the East Surrey Water Company. The water is derived from deep borings in the chalk and is softened, chlorinated and de-chlorinated before distribution to consumers.

Samples of the water before and after treatment are submitted twice weekly for bacteriological examination, under private arrangements made by the East Surrey Water Company. In addition, samples of the treated water are examined chemically and/or bacteriologically about forty times a year, under a rota system arranged by the Medical Officers of Health of the districts supplied by the Company; samples are taken in each district at stated times and copies of the Analyst's reports are circulated for the information of the other districts concerned.

The supply was adequate in quantity throughout the year, the average daily consumption per head of population being about thirty to forty gallons. The quality of the water, as revealed by chemical and bacteriological examination, was invariably reported to be very satisfactory.

The private well referred to above is of artesian type and formerly supplied a mineral water factory and a group of cottages in the Reigate Heath district. The factory closed down in the latter part of the year, but the well water is still pumped to a storage tank which supplies the cottages. Samples examined in January and September were reported to be of satisfactory bacterial quality. It was noted, however, that the water was distinctly acid in reaction and had a high content of free carbon dioxide and was, consequently liable to have a corrosive action on metals. Appropriate precautions were accordingly advised in that connection.

The bungalow with a supply of spring water had been unoccupied for several years, but again came into use as a dwelling in July, 1957. The occupier purchased the property with full knowledge that the water supply was impure and he was accordingly advised with regard to remedial measures necessary to eliminate possible sources of contamination. These included renovation and repair of a collecting tank in an adjoining field, from which the water is piped to the bungalow, and the installation of a domestic water filter on the internal supply system. The results of examination of subsequent samples indicated that the water was then suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

On investigation of a complaint by one of the tenants, it was discovered that a group of 39 cottages in the Ladbroke Road area are supplied with water from the public mains through a covered iron storage tank situated externally over an outbuilding at one of the cottages. Although the pressure of water from the tank was low as compared with the normal direct supply, the quantity available to each house was considered to be adequate; the water was found on analysis to be of satisfactory bacterial quality and free from metallic impurity.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The cesspool at a dwelling house in the Reigate district was abolished on connection of the property to the public sewer. Two new cesspools were installed at other premises and a septic tank-filter bed system serving three houses was overhauled and repaired.

On further review of the records relating to cesspools and small sewage disposal plants in the Borough, it was found that there are approximately 230 cesspools and 34 premises with septic tank-filter bed systems of sewage disposal. One hundred and ninety-two cesspools are emptied periodically under arrangements made by the Borough Surveyor; those receiving drainage of dwelling houses are emptied free of charge twelve times a year, with a charge on an hourly basis for more frequent emptying, while cesspools at business premises are emptied on payment of the full cost by the occupiers.

Closet Accommodation

The conservancy system of domestic sanitation has been almost completely replaced in the Borough by the water carriage system, but there are still 13 properties where the only type of apparatus available is the pail or chemical closet and where sink waste liquids are discharged to some form of cesspool or soakaway. The properties concerned are small farm cottages situated on the rural outskirts of the district.

Rivers and Streams

The streams and surface water courses in the area are regularly inspected and all necessary action is taken to render them free from obstruction and pollution.

Public Cleansing

A weekly collection of house and trade refuse is in operation in all parts of the Borough. More frequent collections are made of trade refuse having a high content of putrescible matter. Special collections are made at the request of tradesmen or householders.

The conditions under which house and trade refuse is temporarily stored are generally satisfactory. Defective and dilapidated receptacles have been replaced, where necessary, and householders have been assisted in this respect by an arrangement under which dustbins of approved pattern are available for sale at the Cleansing Department.

The separate collection of food wastes was continued throughout the year. This system largely obviates the use of domestic refuse bins as temporary storage receptacles for waste food and results in the production annually of roughly 700 tons of animal feeding stuffs. The withdrawal of the communal waste food bins in certain districts and the substitution therefor of individual containers on free loan to householders has been very satisfactory and successful innovation.

The arrangements made for the extraction and salvage of waste paper, bottles, textiles, metals, etc., have continued in operation. The residue of the refuse, amounting to roughly 15,000 tons, is disposed of by incineration. One of the three cell incinerator units was reconstructed during the year.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

A classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered, and the action and result of action taken in respect of them will be found in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Shops

Inspections for the purposes of the Shops Act, 1950, continue to be made as and when necessary.

Camping Sites

Eleven licences (all renewals) were granted under Section 269, Sub-section (1) (ii) of the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of trailer caravans occupied by families who were without proper housing accommodation.

The three privately-owned sites referred to in previous reports continued in use during 1957, with accommodation for a total of 148 caravans. It was found necessary to make frequent visits of inspection to these sites, to ensure that a satisfactory standard of hygiene in the ablution and sanitary blocks was regularly maintained.

In addition to the above, there is the Corporation's caravan site in Three Arch Road, Redhill, with accommodation for a maximum of 40 caravans. There has been a steady demand for plots on this site, which have been let almost exclusively to applicants having residential or occupational connections with the Borough. A few plots have intentionally been kept vacant and so available for urgent and special cases. Several of the plots have been in the same occupation since the site was opened in August, 1953, but others have been vacated after short periods, in most cases because the tenants have changed their place of employment or have obtained more suitable housing accommodation. During the year there were 8 new lettings, and 11 families left the site; a total of 47 families were in occupation at some time during the year.

Atmospheric Pollution (Clean Air Act, 1956)

There were four complaints of nuisance from smoke during 1957. These related to three factory steam-raising boilers fired by solid fuel and one fired by oil. Statutory nuisance could not be proved in any of these cases, but an improvement in fuel combustion followed observations and visits to the premises concerned.

Parts of the Clean Air Act, 1956, came into force on 31st December, 1956, when Local Authorities were given new powers and duties in connection with smoke control areas, the installation of new furnaces, additions to building bye-laws, etc. The degree of atmospheric pollution in a district of this character does not warrant priority of supply of smokeless fuels, which are more urgently required in the industrial areas of large cities. It is felt, therefore, that the establishment of a smoke control area in the Borough does not call for immediate consideration.

The Borough Council adopted the model bye-law framed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government to limit heating and cooking appliances in new buildings to those designed for burning specified or authorised smokeless fuels. The Borough Surveyor and the Chief Public Health Inspector were authorised generally to enforce the provisions of the Act, insofar as it affects their respective Departments, and were authorised also to consult the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service, as and when necessary, in dealing with technical problems arising under the provisions of the Act.

Swimming Baths and Pools

Two swimming baths in the area are open to the public. Both are covered baths owned and controlled by the Corporation, and are equipped with the necessary plant for continuous filtration and chlorination.

Samples of water from both baths were submitted to analysis at the height of the bathing season and were reported to reach a very satisfactory standard of bacterial purity. Chemical examination revealed a somewhat high content of ammoniacal nitrogen, which might tend to interfere with the normal purification processes and make it difficult to continue to maintain the organic quality of the water at a high standard with the original filling. The Analyst, therefore, advised that both baths should be emptied and re-filled at a convenient opportunity.

Copies of the Analyst's reports were supplied to the Baths Superintendent.

The Secretary of the Royal Alexandra and Albert School enquired if the water in the lake at Gatton Park was of such quality that children from the school might safely be allowed to bathe in it. On his behalf samples were collected and submitted to chemical and bacteriological examination. The Analyst reported that the organic quality of the water was inferior, but that the degree of bacterial impurity was very moderate for surface water and compared very favourably with that of other waters used for outdoor bathing.

Advice was also sought with regard to possible danger to health from bathing in the Earlswood Lakes. The water in the lakes is mainly surface drainage and cannot, therefore, be expected to reach a high degree of purity. Under normal conditions it is subject to a very considerable measure of natural purification and is probably no more impure or potentially dangerous than other surface waters. Like other waters from such sources, however, its organic and bacterial quality must inevitably be inferior and so render it generally unsuitable for bathing purposes. This applies more particularly in periods of prolonged drought, when the level of the water falls below the outlet weir; it is at such times that bathing in the lake is likely to be most popular and when it may carry special risk. Periodical analyses of the water in the lakes, even during the bathing season, would have very little value in view of the many variable factors concerned.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

The disinfection of verminous premises was carried out by the Disinfecting Officer, under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector. Particulars of Council and other houses found to be infested and dealt with during the year are set out in a later section of this report.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

In accordance with the requirements of Section 128 (3) of the Factories Act, 1937, I submit the following particulars of action taken during 1957 in relation to factory premises:-

(1) Inspections

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	24	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	171	95	-	-
(iii) Others	17	16	-	-
TOTALS	212	115	-	-

(2) Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ..	1	1	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) insufficient ..	1	1	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	6	6	-	4	-
(c) not separate for sexes	1	2	-	1	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	1	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	10	10	-	5	-

(3) Out Work (Sections 110 and 111)

In compliance with the requirements of Section 110 (i) (c), notice was given by one local employer in respect of one out worker engaged on the making of wearing apparel.

Fifteen lists were received from other Authorities in relation to forty-three out workers. It was found, on inspection, that the work was not in any instance being done in unwholesome premises.

SECTION III

HOUSING

Returns relating to the demolition, closing and repair of houses, under the Housing and Public Health Acts, are now submitted quarterly to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The particulars supplied under these headings in respect of the year 1957 are briefly summarised as follows:-

(a) (i) Houses demolished in Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936 - Section 25)	18
(Market Row, Feldwick Place & Cromwell Road, Redhill)	
(ii) Families rehoused from Clearance Areas	45
(Cromwell Road, South Street & Tower Street, Redhill)	(111 persons)
(b) Individual unfit houses dealt with (Housing Act, 1936, Sections 11 & 12) -	
(i) Demolished	Nil
(ii) Closed	4
(40 Garlands Road, Redhill; Basement flat, 75, Holmesdale Road, Reigate, 7, Nutley Grove, Reigate, 57, St. John's Redhill)	
(iii) Families rehoused	4
	(13 persons)
(c) Unfit houses made fit -	
(i) Informally - by owner	69
(ii) After formal notice (Public Health Act)	1

The following additional information is of interest:-

(d) Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	181
(e) Number of dwelling-houses - included in (d) above - inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	51
(f) Number of (e) above represented as unfit and suitable for action -	
(i) under Section 25, Housing Act, 1936	18
(ii) under Sections 11 and 12 Housing Act, 1936	4
(g) (i) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during 1957	2
(ii) Number of cases relieved during 1957	3
(iii) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at end of 1957	2

Substantial progress in the Council's five-year programme for the clearance of unfit houses was made during 1957. Following the official representation of 62 houses in 1956, a further 50 were included in the second-year programme. Eighteen of these have been officially represented, namely, 3 in Mason's Bridge Road, Redhill, which are being dealt with by clearance area procedure, and 15 in Cromwell Road and Cromwell Road North, Redhill, which are the subject of a Compulsory Purchase Order. The remaining 32 houses are situated in Warwick Road and North Street, Redhill, and form part of what is known as the Dome Estate, which the Council acquired during the year for housing purposes. These houses will be dealt with formally as and when suitable alternative accommodation is available for the tenants.

Of the unfit houses officially represented in 1956, 18 were demolished in 1957 and 45 families were rehoused. No objection has been received by the Ministry in respect of any of the Orders so far made and the Orders made in 1956 have all been officially confirmed. There has been delay in proceeding with a Compulsory Purchase Order in relation to certain dwelling houses and retail shops in Cromwell Road, Redhill, in consequence of prolonged negotiation on the questions of compensation and suitable sites for new shop premises to which the businesses can be transferred.

In addition to the above, four dwellings were dealt with by closing order procedure.

The Council's Housing Manager has kindly supplied the following particulars with regard to rehousing:-

1.	<u>Number of new dwellings completed during the year:-</u>	
	Erected by Borough Council	192
	Erected by private enterprise	231
		<hr/> 423 <hr/>
2.	<u>Families rehoused from waiting list:-</u>	
	In permanent Council Houses	66
	In permanent Council flats	114
	In prefabricated bungalows	5
	In old people's bungalows	6
	In miscellaneous property	6
		<hr/> 197 <hr/>
3.	<u>Families rehoused from slum clearance properties:-</u>	
	In permanent Council houses	11
	In permanent Council flats	30
		<hr/> 41 <hr/>
4.	<u>Families transferred from requisitioned property:-</u>	
	To permanent Council dwellings	13
5.	<u>Families transferred from one type of Council dwelling to another:-</u>	117
6.	<u>Tenants of other Local Authorities who have exchanged accommodation with tenants of Reigate Borough Council:-</u>	12
7.	<u>Tenants of private landlords who have exchanged accommodation with tenants of Reigate Borough Council:-</u>	1

SECTION IV

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

In compliance with the requirements of the Milk (Special Designation) (Special Areas) (No.2) Order, 1954, made by the Minister of Food under the Food & Drugs (Milk, Dairies & Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, all milk sold by retail in the Borough must be pasteurised, sterilised or tuberculin tested.

Milk supplies are sampled frequently on the lines and for the purposes mentioned in previous reports. The laboratory findings on samples examined in 1957 are summarised in Table III, and show that the milk on sale locally reaches a very high standard of bacterial purity.

One sample of tuberculin-tested milk failed to pass the methylene-blue reduction test for keeping quality; the matter was reported to the Milk Production Officer for the County Agricultural Executive Committee, who is responsible for ensuring satisfactory conditions at the place of production.

Of 89 samples of pasteurised milk submitted for examination, 79 passed the prescribed test for keeping quality; the test could not usefully be applied to the other 10 samples because of the high atmospheric temperature at the time of the examination. Only one sample of pasteurised milk failed to satisfy the phosphatase test, indicating a fault in the heat treatment process. In this case the pasteurising plant was situated in the London area and the matter was accordingly referred to the licensing authority concerned; "follow-up" samples were satisfactory.

Eleven samples of milk submitted to biological examination were reported to be free from living organisms of tuberculosis. Freedom from infection of this nature has been one of the most conspicuous and satisfactory features of reports on milk examination in recent years and is, no doubt, an indication of the efficacy of the measures adopted to combat it.

Periodic biological testing is confined to milk that will not be subjected to heat treatment before delivery to the consumer. There are now only two local producers of tuberculin-tested milk, which is sold by retail from a dairy in the Borough.

TABLE III

RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

1. Tests required by Regulations governing Special Designations

No. of Samples	Methylene Blue			Phosphatase		Turbidity
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Test Void	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory
Tuberculin-Tested: 10	8	1	1	-	-	-
Tuberculin-Tested (Pasteurised): 42	38	-	4	42	-	-
Pasteurised: 47	41	-	6	46	1	-
Sterilised: 12	-	-	-	-	-	12

2. Biological Examination

No. of Samples	Tubercle Bacilli +	% Tubercle Bacilli +
11	Nil	0.00

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949 & 1950

Licences, as under, for the sale of designated milk were granted to twenty-one dealers retailing milk in the area:-

		<u>Type of Licence</u>	<u>Number of Licences</u>	<u>Number of Premises</u>
Pasteurised	..	Pasteuriser's	1	1
"	..	Dealer's	8	14
"	..	Supplementary	5	-
Tuberculin Tested		Dealer's	3	10
"	"	Supplementary	5	-
Sterilised	..	Dealer's	15	22
"	..	Supplementary	1	-

Adulteration, etc.

No special action was necessary under Sections 47 and 48 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, nor under the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 to 1948, and the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 to 1948.

All articles submitted to the Public Analyst were examined for the presence of preservatives, in accordance with the Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1940. The only infringement noted was a technical offence relating to pork sausages which contained preservative, the presence of which was not declared at the time of sale. The matter was taken up with the retailer concerned and he subsequently displayed an appropriate notice with regard to the added preservative.

Chemical and Bacterial Examination of Food

Samples for chemical analysis and samples of milk and ice-cream for biological and bacteriological examination are sent to the Council's Analyst, Mr. D.D.Moir, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Eleven samples of ice-cream from ten retailers and two from the only establishment in the Borough registered for the manufacture of ice-cream were examined for bacterial quality by submission to the methylene-blue reduction test. All were placed within provisional Grades I and II, indicating that a satisfactory standard of cleanliness had been observed in manufacture, storage and handling.

SECTION V

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Provision of Isolation Hospital Accommodation

The provision of hospital accommodation for the isolation and treatment of cases of infectious disease is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board. Patients from the Borough are admitted to the Godstone Infectious Diseases Hospital at Bletchingley, if the required accommodation and facilities are available; otherwise, they are sent to suitable hospitals in other parts of the Hospital Region. The disposal of notified cases to different hospitals during the year was as follows:-

Godstone Infectious Diseases Hospital, Bletchingley	20 cases
Queen Mary's Hospital for Children, Carshalton ..	5 "
Redhill County Hospital, Earlswood	4 "
Thornton House, Redhill	4 "
East Surrey Hospital, Redhill	2 "
Hospital for Tropical Diseases, St.Pancras Way, N.W.1.	1 case.

Uncomplicated cases of the commoner infections, such as measles, mumps and whooping cough, are not usually accepted, unless recommended by the Medical Officer of Health on the grounds that the patient cannot be satisfactorily isolated and treated at home; several such cases were admitted to hospital during the year.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases

The action taken on receipt of a notification that a person is suffering from an infectious disease is fully described in previous reports.

The exclusion from school of infected persons and contacts is carried out generally in accordance with the suggestions contained in the Memorandum issued jointly in 1956 by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health.

Table IV shows the numbers of cases of the various notifiable infectious diseases (other than tuberculosis) recorded in the area during the calendar year, classified according to the age of the patient, together with the numbers of cases removed to hospital and the total deaths from each disease. The prevalence of the various diseases is reviewed below.

Small-pox

No confirmed or suspected case of small-pox was reported in the Borough in 1957, nor was there occasion to exercise surveillance over local residents because of possible contact with the disease elsewhere.

Scarlet Fever

Reference has been made in previous reports to the steady decline in the prevalence and severity of scarlet fever and to the questionable value of requiring official notification of the disease in present circumstances. The relatively few cases reported in 1957 were generally mild in type and free from serious complications. Home isolation was permitted and encouraged wherever arrangements for the purpose were reasonably satisfactory and no restrictions were imposed on immediate contacts, with the exception of food handlers and others whose occupation might involve risk of spread of infection.

Whooping Cough

The incidence of whooping cough was not above the average and was, in the main, confined to the early months of the year, when the Merstham district was chiefly affected. Two cases were admitted to Hospital.

The Health Visitors reported that very few of the notified cases were severely affected and that roughly one-third of the total were known to have been vaccinated against whooping cough. It was again noted that many vaccinated children escaped infection though intimately exposed to it. It is not claimed that vaccination confers absolute immunity, but there is ample support for the belief that it very greatly reduces the severity and duration of an attack and the occurrence of respiratory complications. The latter were largely responsible for the relatively high mortality formerly associated with whooping cough in very young children.

Measles

Measles follows a fairly well defined cycle of periodic prevalence in alternate years. The low incidence of the disease in the Borough in 1956 was followed by an extensive outbreak in the early part of 1957, starting in the Reigate district in January and thereafter rapidly becoming widespread. Those mainly affected were children in the pre-school and entrants groups, several of whom suffered concurrently from whooping cough, which was prevalent at the same period, or became infected with one of these diseases while convalescing from the other.

Six cases were admitted to hospital - five because they could not be satisfactorily cared for at home and one on account of suspected respiratory infection. There was no mortality from measles or its complications.

TABLE IV

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED
DURING THE YEAR 1957

	Cases notified in age periods											Totals	Total cases removed to hospital	Total Deaths
	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over		
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	-	4	11	1	-	-	-	-	-	12	-
Whooping Cough	8	12	13	13	12	66	4	2	3	-	-	-	2	-
Measles	23	70	87	107	114	565	36	5	9	-	-	-	6	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	2	-
(b) Non-paralytic	-	-	1	4	-	17	2	7	12	3	4	-	1	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	1	-	6	3	1	3	5	12	6	9	26
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	4	-
Putrid Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	4	1	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
TOTALS ..	31	82	102	125	130	665	48	21	32	9	19	10	38	27
Totals 1956	10	26	51	38	40	179	47	16	39	23	31	13	71	24

* All forms

Poliomyelitis

Nine cases of poliomyelitis were reported in the Borough. One was of the paralytic type, of moderate severity, and recovered satisfactorily with treatment at home. The remaining eight were relatively mild cases and had no symptoms of paralysis at any stage of the illness. They included a group of six cases occurring almost simultaneously among residents at a Home Office School; the clinical evidence in these cases was very ill-defined and inconclusive but was, nevertheless, thought to be sufficiently suggestive to warrant isolation as a precautionary measure, in view of the wide range of contact of the persons concerned.

In conformity with modern practice, admission to hospital of all suspected cases of the disease was encouraged during the season of expected prevalence of poliomyelitis, so that they might have the benefit of laboratory investigation and specialised treatment, should it be necessary. The provisional diagnosis of poliomyelitis was not confirmed in the eleven suspected cases admitted to hospital for observation.

Dysentery

Cases of bacillary dysentery were reported mainly in the months of November and December, when an outbreak of the Flexner type affected 38 residents at the Royal Earlswood Institution. The remaining 12 cases occurred amongst the general population; all were of the mild Sonne type and had no apparent connection with each other, except in one or two instances of secondary cases in the same households.

The one death from bacillary dysentery was of a young infant who died in hospital from severe enteritis, which was found at post-mortem examination to be due to Sonne infection. Sonne dysentery is very rarely fatal, except in very young or aged persons who are debilitated from other causes.

Pneumonia

The number of notified cases of pneumonia was somewhat smaller than usual. Most of them were reported in September or October and in 19 instances were said to be secondary to influenza, which was almost epidemic in the Borough at that time.

Nine cases were treated in hospital. The remainder were visited by the Health Visitors, who reported that the facilities for home nursing were generally satisfactory and that nursing and domestic assistance, where necessary, had already been obtained.

It may be observed that the number of deaths ascribed to pneumonia, as compared with the number of cases notified, represents a very high case mortality. These figures, however, are not directly related, as the deaths ascribed to pneumonia include many due to non-notifiable forms of the disease. There were, in fact, only five deaths of notified cases, including four residents in the Royal Earlswood Institution who were also suffering from serious nervous disease.

Puerperal Pyrexia

There were only four reported cases of puerperal pyrexia, i.e. rise of temperature during the lying-in period. All had been confined in a local maternity home and the rise of temperature in each case was stated to be due to influenza.

Malaria

The one notification of malaria related to a Civil Servant who was in the early stages of the disease on his arrival in this country from West Africa, where he had, no doubt, become infected. He was admitted to the Hospital for Tropical Diseases in London.

Erysipelas

Erysipelas is still retained on the list of notifiable infections, though it has practically ceased to have any epidemiological importance. Of the seven cases notified during the year, one was treated in hospital, three in institutions in which the patients were resident at the time and three in their own homes; all recovered satisfactorily.

Other Diseases

Two suspected cases of enteric fever (Para-Typhosus 'C') were investigated in the Redhill County Hospital, with negative findings in each case. Two Borough residents who were reported to have been in contact with a confirmed case of enteric fever (Para-Typhosus 'B') in another district were kept under close surveillance until laboratory findings indicated their freedom from infection.

Although there were no formal notifications of food poisoning, information was obtained from other sources of several cases of illness which were believed to be directly due to the consumption of unsound or infected food. It became known that five members of the same household were suddenly seized with vomiting and severe diarrhoea about two hours after they had eaten savouries prepared by a local caterer. Residues of the suspected food (particularly patties containing prawn paste) and specimens from the persons affected, showed a very heavy infection with an organism often concerned in bacterial food poisoning. Organisms of precisely the same type (*Staphylococcus aureus* - Type 53/73 +) were isolated from the nasal secretion and fingers of the caterer who had prepared the savouries, so that the source of infection in this instance was fairly conclusively established. Appropriate measures were immediately taken to prevent further infection from the same source.

Three cases of acute gastro-enteritis, believed to be due to food poisoning, were admitted to hospital for observation. A food poisoning organism (*Salmonella typhimurium*) was isolated in only one of these cases and was possibly the cause of the illness. For several reasons the usual routine investigations could not usefully be undertaken in this case.

Tuberculosis

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis which came to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year are set out in Table V, together with an analysis of the deaths in the area from this disease during the same period.

A total of 30 new cases of tuberculosis of the lungs was reported in the Borough in 1957. This represents an incidence rate of 0.60, which somewhat exceeds the corresponding rates for 1956 and 1955, but is still well below the average rate for the preceding ten years. The increase in 1957 was confined to males, more particularly those in the early adolescent and advanced age groups, while the number of females affected was by far the lowest for many years. A considerable number of the reported cases were discovered in the course of mass radiography surveys conducted in the area during the year; in most instances the disease was in its very earliest stages and readily amenable to treatment by modern methods.

The rate of prevalence of non-respiratory tuberculosis also was higher than in the two preceding years, but was still appreciably below the ten-year average. In these cases also, the increase was confined to males, mainly those in the younger age groups.

In addition to the new cases, i.e. those notified for the first time, there were reports of 28 previously-known cases of tuberculosis (27 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory), who had been notified elsewhere and had taken up residence in the Borough. The majority of these are under supervision of the Chest Physician for the area.

There were three deaths from tuberculosis of the lungs, representing a mortality rate of 0.06 per 1,000 population, as compared with 0.04 in 1956 - the lowest experienced in the Borough - and a rate of 0.09 for England and Wales. No mortality was attributed to non-respiratory forms of the disease.

TABLE V

New cases of Tuberculosis, and all Deaths from the Disease in the Area during 1957, classified according to Age, Sex and Type of Disease

Age Periods	Cases			Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F		M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-15 years	4	-	1	-	-	-	-
15-25 years	1	3	1	-	-	-	-
25-35 years	5	1	1	-	1	-	-
35-45 years	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55 years	3	1	-	1	-	-	-
55-65 years	5	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 & upwards	4	1	-	-	1	-	-
TOTALS ..	24	6	3	2	1	-	-
Totals 1956 ..	15	10	1	1	1	-	-

It was reported that 4 notified cases had died, 33 had left the district, 22 had completely recovered from the disease and 1, on further investigation, was found to be non-tuberculous; the names of these patients were accordingly removed from the register.

At the end of the year there were 392 known cases of tuberculosis in the Borough, including 360 (203 males and 156 females) in which the lungs were affected, and 32 (16 males and 16 females) with tuberculosis of other organs. In many of these the disease is quiescent or arrested, but all are regularly visited and supervised by the staff of the local Chest Clinic.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and employed in the milk trade) nor under Section 127 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

The voluntary Tuberculosis Care Committee, which works in close association with local Chest Clinics and Sanatoria, continued its activities on behalf of tuberculous persons and their dependants. The assistance granted during the year included the supply of extra nourishment, fuel, bedding, clothing, sick-room requisites, etc., and the payment of fares, pocket money and other incidental expenses which could not be met from official sources.

Mass Radiography

Mass Radiography Surveys were conducted at the Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Reigate, from the 20th to the 24th May, inclusive, and at the Colman Institute, Redhill, from the 28th May to 7th June, inclusive. Special sessions were arranged for employees in local industrial undertakings, school teachers, youth organisations, members of the Council's staff and other organised groups, in addition to the sessions for the general public.

The findings of the surveys are briefly summarised as follows:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Reigate</u>			
Number of persons examined	564	934	1,498
Respiratory tuberculosis, active	2	1	3
" " inactive	8	12	20
Primary lung cancer	-	-	-
Other non-tuberculous abnormalities	-	-	-
<u>Redhill</u>			
Number of persons examined	2,694	2,336	5,030
Respiratory tuberculosis, active	4	-	4
" " inactive	68	64	132
Primary lung cancer	2	-	2
Other non-tuberculous abnormalities	1	1	2

The seven cases of active tuberculosis discovered in the Surveys represent an incidence rate of 1.07 per 1,000 persons examined. The average rate recorded in neighbouring parts of the Hospital Region was 1.2.

Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccination against Small-pox

Vaccination against small-pox is not at present undertaken at the County Council's Clinics in the Borough. Particulars of notifications of vaccinations performed by private medical practitioners during the year are as follows:-

	<u>0 - 1</u> <u>year</u>	<u>1 - 5</u> <u>years</u>	<u>5 - 15</u> <u>years</u>	<u>Over 15</u> <u>years</u>	<u>Total</u>
Primary Vaccination	409	59	35	49	552
Re-vaccination	-	4	47	228	279

The total number of primary vaccinations is very much greater than usual, especially of children in the younger age groups. It is estimated that roughly 60.0 per cent of the babies born in 1957 were successfully vaccinated against small-pox; the corresponding figures for 1956 and 1955 were 55.0 per cent and 51.0 per cent, respectively.

A considerable number of the re-vaccinations were of persons who were required to produce certificates of recent vaccination to enable them to travel abroad. Such certificates must be authenticated by the Medical Officer of Health of the district in which the person normally resides.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

The numbers of children who completed a full course of immunisation during the year, either at the County Council's Clinics or under private arrangements, are as follows:-

<u>Under 1</u> <u>year</u>	<u>1 - 2</u> <u>years</u>	<u>2 - 3</u> <u>years</u>	<u>3 - 4</u> <u>years</u>	<u>4 - 5</u> <u>years</u>	<u>5 - 10</u> <u>years</u>	<u>10 - 15</u> <u>years</u>	<u>Total</u>
545	95	19	14	7	43	18	741

In addition, reinforcing doses of diphtheria prophylactic were given to 530 persons, most of whom were school entrants who had completed a course of immunisation three or four years previously.

The total number of children immunised is somewhat above the average, probably because it was not necessary to interrupt the immunisation programme on account of undue prevalence of poliomyelitis in the district. It was decided, however, to discontinue entirely the use of vaccines containing alum and to suspend the use of combined vaccines during the summer months, in view of the statistical evidence that paralysis due to poliomyelitis might possibly be provoked by such vaccines.

It is estimated that at least 65.0 per cent of the children in the Borough have been artificially immunised against diphtheria. This proportion is not unsatisfactory, though it might again be mentioned that almost complete freedom from diphtheria in the past ten years or so has tended to lessen the demand for protection against it.

Vaccination against Whooping Cough

The County Council's scheme for vaccination against whooping cough is directed mainly to infants under the age of one year, in whom the disease is most likely to be fatal or followed by serious complications. The numbers of children who completed a full course of immunisation during the year, either at the County Council's Clinics or under private arrangements, are as follows:-

<u>Under 1</u> <u>year</u>	<u>1 - 2</u> <u>years</u>	<u>2 - 3</u> <u>years</u>	<u>3 - 4</u> <u>years</u>	<u>4 - 5</u> <u>years</u>	<u>5 - 15</u> <u>years</u>	<u>Total</u>
535	86	17	8	4	20	670

Reinforcing injections of whooping cough vaccine were given to 191 children who had completed a course of primary immunisation four or five years previously.

As in the case of small-pox and diphtheria, the numbers vaccinated against whooping cough are well above the average. In most instances the whooping cough vaccination was combined with artificial immunisation against diphtheria. It is estimated that not less than 75.0 per cent of the infants born in 1957 completed a course of vaccination against whooping cough before the end of the year. Whilst not affording absolute protection against the disease, whooping cough vaccination with the antigens at present available confers a high degree of immunity in a large proportion of cases and greatly reduces the severity and duration of the illness in immunised children who are attacked.

Measles Prophylaxis

Immune serum is available through the Public Health Department for the total or partial immunisation of susceptible measles contacts. No request for serum was received during the year.

Vaccination against Tetanus

The County Council's immunisation arrangements now include vaccination against tetanus of children whose parents expressly wish them to be so protected. The tetanus vaccine may be given separately, but is usually combined with the agents used for active immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough, thus reducing the number of inoculations and affording simultaneous protection against all three diseases. A total of 394 persons were vaccinated against tetanus during 1957.

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis

For several years it has been the accepted practice to offer protective inoculation, by B.C.G. vaccine, to selected children from households in which there is an infectious case of tuberculosis. This work is undertaken mainly by the Chest Physicians, with occasional assistance from the Divisional Medical Staff.

This scheme has been extended to include thirteen-year-old pupils at County Council and Independent schools. Subject to the consent of their parents, the pupils in this age group are skin tested to ascertain if they have already had a primary tuberculous infection, and those giving a negative result are offered B.C.G. vaccination. Thirteen schools in the Borough were dealt with during the year, with the following results:-

Number of children in age group	..	..	1022
Number consenting to treatment	..	..	692
Percentage consenting to treatment	..	..	67.7%
Number Mantoux tested	..	..	576
Number of negative reactors	..	..	507
Percentage giving negative reaction	..	..	88.0%
Number vaccinated	..	..	504
Percentage of negative reactors vaccinated			99.4%
Number of vaccinated children re-tested	..		482
Number of these giving positive reaction	..		470
Percentage giving positive reaction	..	..	97.5%

Of the 692 who consented to treatment, 116 failed to keep the appointment offered to them; nevertheless, the total number actually tested represents a reasonably satisfactory proportion of those in the age group. The percentage of negative reactors vaccinated and those giving a positive result on subsequent skin test are also satisfactory.

An interesting feature of the results recorded during the year was the very wide variation at different schools in the relative numbers of pupils who reacted to the skin test, indicating that they had at some time been infected with tuberculosis. Schools with a high proportion of positive reactors were kept under close medical supervision. While the primary purpose of the scheme is the ascertainment and vaccination of children who have not already had a primary infection, it is the accepted practice to arrange, where possible, for x-ray examination of positive reactors to exclude the possibility of active infection. No unfavourable x-ray findings were reported during the year.

Apart from the routine skin testing referred to above, special enquiries were conducted at three schools in the Borough from which cases of active respiratory tuberculosis had been notified. At one of these schools - a County Council establishment - a supply teacher had been employed for about a month and was then found to have extensive and advanced tuberculosis of both lungs. The teacher concerned was immediately suspended from duty and arrangements were made for the mass x-ray examination of the 89 pupils at the school and of all members of the teaching staff. The results of skin testing of pupils who had not already been so tested and of the x-ray examination of pupils and staff did not, in any instance, disclose evidence of recent or active infection.

The other two were private schools and in each a pupil was found to have primary tuberculosis of the lungs. With the consent of their parents, 126 pupils at one school and 125 at the other were submitted to the skin test, to which 12 at each school gave a positive reaction. Positive reactors and all members of the teaching staff were examined at the Mass Radiography Unit, with satisfactory results. Special reference should be made to the assistance and co-operation of the principals of the schools concerned in facilitating these investigations, and also to the readiness with which the majority of parents consented to their children being included. The value and importance of such investigations is not in any way lessened by the fact that they did not reveal an existing source of infection, or evidence of spread of infection from the initial case, at the three schools investigated during the year.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

The County Council's immunisation arrangements were extended in the early part of 1956 to include vaccination against poliomyelitis. The scheme was at first restricted to children born in the years 1947 to 1954, inclusive, but was extended in May, 1957, to those born in 1955 and 1956, and, in December, to all children between the ages of six months and fifteen years, in addition to expectant mothers, medical practitioners and their families, ambulance personnel and others exposed to special risk. Those desiring vaccination were required to be duly registered for the purpose with the Local Health Authority.

The scheme is operated on a Divisional basis and it is consequently not easily possible to compile precise or detailed figures for individual Sanitary Districts. So far as the Borough of Reigate is concerned, a total of 1431 eligible persons were vaccinated against poliomyelitis in 1957, either at the County Council's Clinics or by their own doctors; it is estimated that this number is equivalent to roughly 40 per cent of the applicants registered for treatment. Progress under the scheme was much impeded by the very limited supply and uncertain delivery of the British type vaccine then in use; supplies have since been very greatly augmented by the importation of Salk vaccine of American and Canadian manufacture.

Vaccination against Influenza

Mass vaccination against influenza was not officially recommended in the Autumn epidemic, but limited quantities of a specially prepared vaccine against the Asian type of virus were made available for the protection of medical practitioners, district nurses, health visitors, home helps and others who visit the sick at home and are, in consequence, specially liable to be exposed to infection. The storage and issue of this vaccine was undertaken by the Public Health Department.

Protection against other diseases

Prophylactic inoculation against other infectious diseases, such as enteric fever, cholera, yellow fever, etc., is necessary in the case of persons proposing to visit foreign countries where these diseases are endemic, and is usually undertaken at specified centres. The International Certificate required in such cases must be authenticated by the Medical Officer of Health of the district in which the person resides.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases

Information relating to the prevalence of non-notifiable infectious and contagious diseases is necessarily incomplete, and is obtained mainly from reports of school absentees, the periodic statements of sickness claims submitted to the local office of the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance in relation to insured persons and the Registrar's weekly returns of deaths. Cases also come to notice through enquiries by employers with regard to quarantine periods, requests for disinfection, casual communications by private medical practitioners and applications for domestic assistance under the Home Help Scheme. The occurrence of cases at the Day Nursery and in residential children's homes is also reported.

The information obtained from these various sources indicated that influenza due to the Asian type of virus was exceptionally prevalent in the Borough in the latter part of September and the beginning of October, when the local office of the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance reported a very substantial increase in the number of sickness claims submitted to his Department and when attendance at several local schools was very greatly reduced because of influenza. The staff of many business establishment and industrial undertakings was very much depleted for the same reason. The disease was, on the whole, very mild clinically, with low mortality, and the epidemic wave passed very quickly. In consultation with representatives of the medical practitioners and of the hospital authorities in the area, tentative plans were agreed for co-operation and mutual help between the various medical interests concerned in the event of the infection increasing in prevalence and severity.

There was no undue prevalence of other non-notifiable infections. The reported cases include 18 of German measles (mainly in the South Park area), 14 of chicken-pox, 13 of mumps, 5 of acute gastro-enteritis, 4 of non-specific meningitis and 3 of streptococcal tonsillitis; 10 of these cases were admitted to hospital.

Disinfection

There are facilities at the Disinfecting Station for the sterilisation of articles that have been exposed to infection and for the cleansing of verminous persons and their belongings. Provision has been made for the treatment by formalin vapour of books and other articles which are unsuitable for disinfection by super-heated steam. The work undertaken at the Disinfecting Station during the year is summarised in a later section of this report.

Uncleanliness

Pediculosis

The few cases of pediculosis recorded during the year were practically confined to school-children with nits or lice in their hair. A total of 29 children in 24 families were found to be so affected in varying degree when examined by the Health Visitors and were excluded from school until they had been satisfactorily cleansed. The necessary cleansing was undertaken by the parents, with the assistance and advice of the Health Visitors; it was not necessary, in any instance, to resort to compulsory cleansing under the arrangements made for that purpose.

An elderly man who was found to be infested with body lice was cleansed at the Corporation's Disinfecting Station; the premises he had occupied and his clothing and other personal belongings were also suitably treated.

Scabies

Four adults and two children were reported to be suffering from scabies and were satisfactorily cleansed by the staff of the Health Department, at the request of the medical practitioners concerned. Arrangements were made for the treatment of 5 immediate contacts and for the disinfection of infected bedding and clothing. The total number of cases is very much smaller than usual.

BOROUGH OF REIGATE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1957

Public Health Department,
Caberfeigh,
24 Hatchlands Road,
Redhill, Surrey.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit herewith my twenty-fourth Annual Report which relates to the work of the Public Health Inspectors during 1957.

The report is set out under headings which follow much the same lines as in previous years. It was unfortunate that work should have been impeded by shortage of staff at a time when public health legislation had recently been increased in regard to matters of food hygiene and the clearance of unfit houses, and in a year which presented additional problems caused by new legislation connected with the abatement of atmospheric pollution and the prevention of animal diseases liable to be caused by the consumption of unsterilised waste foodstuffs. In these circumstances a depleted staff can only deal with matters on a short-term day-to-day basis, giving priority to the problems which appear to be the most urgent at the time.

It is, therefore, a pleasure to record the diligence shown by this depleted staff during 1957, and I would also wish to add my thanks to Dr. T. H. Bingham, Medical Officer of Health, for his unfailing consideration, and invaluable and sound advice.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G JANES

Chief Public Health Inspector

28th August, 1958

Infectious Disease, Disinfection and Disinfestation

During the year 108 visits of enquiry were made on behalf of the Medical Officer of Health in connection with cases of infectious disease and food poisoning. The purpose of such an enquiry is to try and ascertain the cause or origin of the illness, to trace contacts or contaminated or infected food and, if possible, to assist in preventing the occurrence of further cases.

Following information received from the Metropolitan Borough of Wandsworth that cartons of Danish hen egg albumen distributed by a wholesaler in that district had been found to contain salmonella typhimurium, a small consignment in a local bakehouse was withdrawn from use and returned for heat treatment under official supervision; this action was taken before any of the infected material had been used.

The disinfection or disinfestation of material which may have become infected or infested as a result of infectious illness or vermin infestation is carried out at the Council's Disinfecting Station at the Disposal Works, Redhill. This may be done either in the steam disinfecting apparatus or by chemical means in a compartment specially constructed for this purpose and which can be sealed and rendered air-tight. This work is also carried out on behalf of the neighbouring Rural District Councils of Dorking & Horley, and Godstone.

Detail of the work is given below and, unless otherwise indicated, relates to articles of bedding, clothing, furnishings, etc.:-

(1) Reigate Borough -

	<u>Dwelling-houses</u>	<u>Institutions, etc.</u>
Infectious & Other Diseases	89	-
Vermin (Lice)	29	-
Miscellaneous	99	129
Rooms Disinfected	14	15
Rooms Disinfested	9	-

(2) Dorking & Horley R.D. -

Infectious & Other Diseases	35	-
Vermin (Scabies)	1	-

(3) Godstone R.D. -

Infectious & Other Diseases	20	-
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In addition, 36 library books were disinfected by formalin vapour and returned to the libraries concerned.

The infestation of dwelling-houses by vermin, such as bed-bugs and fleas, is now comparatively rare. In 1957 one room and five cubicles at an Institution were found to be slightly infested with bed-bugs, and one house was infested with fleas. All were successfully cleared by a single application of a liquid insecticide containing D.D.T. Requests for assistance in treating four premises, comprising Fire Brigade premises, a workshop, a nursing home and a boarding school, which were found to be infested in varying degrees by cockroaches and other beetles, were received from the occupiers; a liquid emulsion containing D.D.T. and pyrethrum is used in this type of case, and has proved an effective method of keeping these insects under control. Other premises which were disinfested included:-

(a) Kitchens, etc., of St. Anne's Institution, Redhill (Surrey County Council), and premises occupied by the Redhill Group Hospital Management Committee, which were periodically treated for cockroaches, under contract arrangements with those authorities;

(b) school canteen kitchens under the control of the County Education Authority, which were sprayed with a liquid insecticide during the fly-breeding season to prevent the contamination of food by flies.

Disinfestation was carried out in the case of an elderly man found to be harbouring lice; the man attended the Disinfecting Station, where he was cleansed and his bedding and clothing treated by steam disinfection.

A resident in an outlying part of the Borough sought assistance in dealing with an extensive infestation of the roof space of his house by flies, which were identified by an entomologist of the Natural History Section of the British Museum as *dasyphora cyanella*, a species of metallic-green fly which breeds in animal dung in the fields and comes indoors to hibernate. Successful destruction of this pest was carried out in accordance with the advice given by the entomologist.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954

Licences were granted under the above-named Acts to two slaughtermen employed at the Merstham slaughterhouse. Thirteen applications by slaughtermen for the renewal of their licences were also granted.

No infringement of the Act was noted during 1957.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 - Sections 62 to 79

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924 - 1952

Slaughtering and Meat Inspection

The arrangements for the slaughtering of animals for food in this district, described in detail in previous reports, were continued unchanged throughout the year; of the three licensed slaughterhouses only one is now in use.

During August, 1957, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food issued a White Paper dealing with the recommended minimum standards for the construction, layout and equipment of slaughterhouses for the purpose of securing humane slaughter and hygienic conditions. It was stated that these standards will be included in Regulations which will be laid before Parliament after enabling legislation has been passed. The Merstham slaughterhouse, which is licensed until 31st July, 1959, would appear to conform reasonably well with the recommended standards, especially having regard to the frequency of the expression "suitable and sufficient". Its adaptation in 1954 for local concentration of slaughtering by the East Surrey Master Butchers' Association Ltd. has been successful in securing a considerable improvement in the unsatisfactory conditions which existed before the war and during the period of control under the Ministry of Food during and after the war. There is still, of course, room for improvement in this as in other branches of food hygiene. Improved premises and equipment are useless if slaughtermen and others engaged in this work are not aware of the need for hygienic methods. It should be the responsibility of the trade to see that their employees are properly instructed and have a thorough understanding of the fundamental principles which govern the clean handling of meat and meat products and the prevention of contamination.

Meat inspection is, of course, easier and more efficient under the better conditions which now exist, but it is work which takes up more time than formerly. This is due to the greater degree of concentration of slaughtering and the subsequent necessity for the meat inspector to make two routine visits per slaughtering day, a procedure which facilitates continuity of work, including the dressing of carcasses and their subsequent storage in the chilling room. The two Inspectors who normally carry out this work take turns of duty during alternate weeks.

The results of meat inspection are given in the accompanying Tables on pages 33 and 34. The incidence of disease found in the slaughtered animals was similar to that discovered in latter years, marked by a decrease in tuberculosis found in cattle, a small increase of the same disease in pigs, though localised in distribution, and an increase in the number of cattle found to be infected with the parasite *cysticercus bovis*. The latter condition in beef can lead to the development of tapeworm in anyone who may eat affected meat that has been insufficiently cooked to destroy the cyst. Nine animals were found to be so infected, as compared with

three in 1956; in all cases the cysts were discovered only in the cheek muscles or in the heart. After condemnation of the affected parts the remainder of the carcasses were treated by refrigeration in the cold store attached to the slaughterhouse, before being released for sale. This treatment is the recognised official method of rendering the meat safe for human consumption.

In arriving at the percentage of the number of animals inspected which are affected by diseases other than tuberculosis or cysticercosis it should be noted that account is not taken of cattle and sheep affected with liver fluke, or of pigs suffering from pneumonia or congestion of the lungs, conditions which are comparatively common and can be ignored for comparative statistical purposes.

Food & Drugs Act, 1955 - Sections 8 and 9 - Food Unfit for Human Consumption

The inspection of foodstuffs other than meat takes place during the routine inspection of food premises, and also at the request of traders when the condition of some particular commodity is thought to be doubtful. During 1957 the following foodstuffs were found, as a result of these inspections, to be unfit for human consumption, and were surrendered to the Inspectors for suitable disposal at the Council's Refuse Disposal Works, where such food as cannot be used in the waste food plant and subsequently sold for animal feeding purposes is destroyed by incineration.

Bacon	3 cwts. 9 lbs.
Cheese	52 lbs.
Sugar and Preserves	2 cwts. 72 lbs.
Milk Powder	2 cwts. 56 lbs.
Ham - canned	2 cwts. 2½ lbs.
Meat and Offal	3 cwts. 28 lbs.
Meat - canned	8 cwts. 11 lbs.
Paste (Meat and Fish)	42 jars & tins
Fish	1 cwt. 70 lbs.
Sausages	7½ lbs.
Tinned Fruit Pulp	95 tins (7½ cwts.)
" Fruit Juice	6 tins
" Beans	35 "
" Carrots	10 "
" Fruit	383 "
" Fish	209 "
" Milk	41 "
" Peas	52 "
" Soup	9 "
" Tomatoes	221 "
" Tomato Concentrate	10 "
" Vegetables	12 "
Spaghetti	4 "
Tinned & packet food (miscellaneous)	214 tins and packets.
Sweets and Chocolate	9¼ cwts. & 7,848 packets.

This work involved 88 visits by the Inspectors.

Eight complaints were received from purchasers of food that its condition was such as to render it unfit for human consumption, either by reason of its quality or because it contained foreign material. Three of these related to bread baked locally (one with some surface contamination, one which was alleged to contain a hair-grip, and the remaining one containing part of a beetle) one case related to jars of marmalade and jam made on the premises of a local fruiterer and greengrocer and found to contain mice excreta; one case referred to bread rolls alleged to be sour and stale when purchased; two cases related to pre-packed semolina and currants, respectively, which were found to contain maggots; the remaining case related to a bottle of milk said to contain dirt in the form of moss. Each case was thoroughly investigated, and in four instances the complaints were considered to be unjustified or the findings inconclusive; contamination was considered to be accidental in three cases, with no evidence of negligence on the part of the vendors. In the remaining case, that of

(Continued on page 35)

MEAT INSPECTION

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN
WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Bulls & Cows	Bulls	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
<u>NUMBER KILLED</u>	706	3	77	369	395	2,832
<u>NUMBER INSPECTED</u>	706	3	77	369	395	2,832
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	3	-	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	234	1	33	2	36	695
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	33.1	33.3	42.9	1.4	9.1	24.7
	♂ (11.2)	♂ (33.3)	♂ (18.2)	-	♂ (1.8)	⌘ (7.6)
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	-	3	-	-	40
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	.85	-	3.9	-	-	1.4
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	-	2	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	6	-	1	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

♂ Percentage excluding Distomatosis
⌘ Percentage excluding Pneumonia and
Congestion of Lungs.

The total weight of carcasses and offals condemned was
3 tons, 1½ cwt.

There were no horses slaughtered for human consumption during the period

MEAT INSPECTION - REASONS FOR CONDEMNATION

DESCRIPTION	Number Slaughtered	Tuber- culosis		Other Conditions												TOTAL		
		Generalised	Localised	Fever	Dropsy &/or Emaciation also Immaturity	Congestion	Injury	Septicaemia	Nephritis	Distomatosis & Cirrhosis	Parasitic	Abscesses	Pleurisy and Peritonitis	Pneumonia	Cavernous Angioma		Miscellaneous	
BOVINES (excluding calves) Whole Carcasses and Offal Part Carcase Heads and Tongues Lungs Livers and Part Livers Mesentery and Intestines	786	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
CALVES - Whole Carcasses and Offal Lungs Livers	369	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	195	-	8	7	1	10
SHEEP - Whole Carcasses and Offal Part Carcasses Lungs Livers	395	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
PIGS - Whole Carcasses and Offal Part Carcasses Lungs Livers	2,832	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	-	2	-	-	34
Mesentery and Intestines		-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Whole Carcasses and Offal		-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	5
Part Carcasses		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Heads and Tongues		-	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43
Lungs		-	-	-	-	208	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	592
Livers		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	133
TOTALS	4,382	1	52	1	3	212	5	-	-	246	84	55	185	296	2	5		1,147

marmalade and jam containing mice excreta, legal proceedings were authorised, but were not taken, as the complainant declined to give evidence; the vendor had ceased manufacture and, having regard to all the circumstances, it was decided formally to warn the vendor of the serious view taken of the matter. Soon afterwards the vendor, who was elderly and unable properly to manage the business, sold the premises and retired.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 - Sections 13 to 21 - Hygiene in connection with the sale of Food, etc. to the Public
Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

At the end of 1956 I was able to report good progress with the inspection of premises affected by the Food Hygiene Regulations, which came into operation at the beginning of that year. Unfortunately, at the beginning of 1957 two of our four Inspectors resigned in order to take appointments elsewhere, and throughout the year we were short of staff. This made it impossible to carry out the routine inspections which had been originally planned; nevertheless primary inspections of food premises were made following the introduction of the Regulations, as follows:-

Bakehouses	...	...	...	15
Grocers	...	...	...	55
Butchers	...	...	...	24
Fruiterers & Greengrocers				14
Fishmongers	...	...	...	4
Confectioners	...	...		6
Vehicles & Stalls	...	...		6

Routine follow-up inspections under the Regulations involved
414 visits.

Many of these inspections resulted in requests for improvement in some particular in order to comply with the Regulations, and this is reflected on the Table on page 42, which indicates the amount of work, structural and otherwise, which was carried out up to the end of the year.

The Regulations have had the effect nationally as well as locally of securing an immediate and definite improvement in the way food is displayed for sale in retail shops; this must be evident to all who take any interest in these matters. It must also be evident to those whose duties take them behind the scenes in premises where food is handled, prepared, processed or cooked (for example, in restaurant and hotel kitchens, food factories, shops, etc.) that there has been a similar improvement in the standard of equipment, ablution facilities, etc. There has also been a growing interest on the part of the public in matters relating to food hygiene. What appears to be lacking on the same level of immediate improvement is a general and compulsor programme of instruction or education of persons employed in handling food for sale. This, it is suggested, should be the responsibility of the businesses or trades concerned to see (as has been said before in a previous section of this report) that employees are made aware of the dangers of food contamination and given an understanding of the principles of the simple methods of hygienic practice which should become the habit of those who can so easily prevent dangerous contamination. Certainly Public Health Inspectors, when they are able to carry out regular and, if necessary, frequent routine inspections, can do much in the way of education, but the responsibility of organising technical instruction of persons engaged in the multifarious food trades should not be left to local authorities and their officers; it should be the responsibility of the various trade organisations or associations to put their house in order in this respect, by insisting on adequate technical knowledge on behalf of their members and employees, and arranging for instruction and qualifying examinations accordingly.

The Register of food premises now includes the following:-

Grocers, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	102
Butchers, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		40
Fishmongers and Fish-fryers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		19
Confectioners (including 15 bakehouses)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		104
Catering Establishments (including 70 Public Houses and 24 School canteen-kitchens)									178
Food Manufactories	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6

Five hundred and ninety visits of inspection were made to the above-named food premises.

Premises which are required to be registered under Section 16 are shown below in detail as being on the register at the end of 1957.

(a) Manufacture and sale of preserved food, etc.:

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No. of Inspections</u>
Butchers, etc.	30	57
Fish-fryers	11	18
Bakers (manufacture of meat pies)	1	5
Fruiterer (manufacturer of jam and marmalade)	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
Total	<u>42</u>	<u>84</u>

= Manufacture ceased early in the year

(b) Manufacture and storage of ice-cream:

Confectioner, etc.	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
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(c) Storage and sale of ice-cream:

Confectioners, etc.	75	42
Grocers, etc.	27	32
Fruiterers, etc.	4	2
Newsagents, etc.	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	<u>109</u>	<u>79</u>

In addition to the above-named premises, there are 14 catering establishments where ice-cream is sold for consumption off the premises which are exempt from registration under existing law.

Whenever plans of new food premises (shops, factory canteens, licensed premises, etc.) are deposited for bye-law approval, the Borough Surveyor consults this Department with regard to advice or observations that might be offered to architects or builders concerned on points relating to general sanitary or hygienic conditions before construction is commenced. This co-operation between the two Departments has been found to have good results; for example, it is often necessary to point out the omission to provide a washhand basin where it should be obvious that ablution facilities are essential, or there has been omission to make adequate provision for the proper lighting and ventilation of a retail shop, particularly where, as often happens, the shop during its preliminary fitting-up is divided into two - the front to be used for the sale of goods and the back part to be used for food preparation or storage.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 - Sections 89 to 99 - Sampling and Analysis

The form of certificate used by the Public Analyst for the purpose of the Act was revised as from 27th May, 1957, in accordance with the Public Analysts' Regulations, 1957.

One hundred and ten samples purchased by the sampling officers were submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst. They covered a wide range of commodities, and were almost without exception of satisfactory quality. In only four cases did the Analyst make an unfavourable comment; these concerned:-

(a) A sample of pork sausages which was found to contain sulphur dioxide as an added preservative, but within the prescribed limit; there was a technical offence in this case in that the presence of the preservative was not declared either on the package on sale or by a notice displayed in the shop. The vendor's attention was drawn to this offence, and the appropriate notice was afterwards displayed.

(b) A sample of grated cheese was found to contain considerable mould growth which adversely affected appearance, taste and general quality. When the attention of the firm in question was drawn to this adverse report, instructions were issued to all their branches to see that in future mouldy cheese was removed prior to grating.

(c) A sample of witch-hazel B.P.C. was incorrectly labelled, as this drug was not included in the current British Pharmaceutical Index. The vendor withdrew remaining stocks from sale and re-labelled them.

(d) A sample of sal-volatile was found to be deficient in free ammonia and ammonium carbonate. Upon investigation it was found that this sample had been taken by genuine mistake from old stock which should not have been sold; the vendor's action in dealing with this matter was considered to be satisfactory

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955 - SAMPLING

(Public Analyst: D. D. Moir Esq., M.Sc., F.R.I.C.)

FOODSTUFFS	SAMPLES TAKEN				Total	Genuine	Adversely Reported upon
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter			
Milk	4	3	5	10	22	22	-
Ice-cream	-	-	5	-	5	5	-
Butter	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Margarine	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Lard	1	-	-	1	2	2	-
Sausages - Pork	1	1	-	2	4	3	1
Sausages - Beef	-	2	1	1	4	4	-
Meat Pies	1	-	-	2	3	3	-
Fishcakes	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Meat & Fish Pastes	1	1	-	2	4	4	-
Cheese Grated	-	1	-	-	1	-	1
Artificial Colour & Flavouring	2	-	1	3	6	6	-
Dried Fruit, Peel, etc.	-	1	-	6	7	7	-
Lemon Curd, Honey, etc.	1	2	-	-	3	3	-
Marmalade	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Mincemeat	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Sauces & Pickles	6	-	-	9	15	15	-
Tea	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Soft Drinks	-	-	-	6	6	6	-
Custard & Blancmange Powders	-	-	1	1	2	2	-
Baking Powder	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Pepper	-	1	1	1	3	3	-
Ginger, Ground	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Gelatine	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Beer	-	-	2	-	2	2	-
Whisky	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Gin	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Drugs, various	2	2	1	5	10	8	2
TOTALS	20	17	20	53	110	106	4

Merchandise Marks Act, 1926 and Orders made thereunder

These Orders relate to the following imported foodstuffs:

Fresh apples; currants, sultanas and raisins; eggs (in shell); dried eggs; oat products; raw tomatoes; bacon and ham; dead poultry; meat; margarine; malt products; frozen or chilled salmon and sea trout; honey.

They provide that on sale the goods shall bear an indication of the country of origin, the object being to give the purchasing public the opportunity of choosing between goods of Home, Empire or Foreign origin. The food traders concerned have been found to comply with these Orders in a reasonably satisfactory manner. The few minor infringements noted have related to the marking of imported meat, apples and tomatoes, but verbal requests by the Inspectors for compliance with the Orders have secured correct marking.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

The entries in the Registers required to be kept in accordance with the Regulations are summarised as follows:-

Distributors:

(a)	With 3 dairies in the Borough	..	..	..	..	2
(b)	With dairies outside the Borough	..	..	..	..	7
(c)	With premises in the Borough	..	..	..	..	16
	(bottled milk sold in general shops)					

Of the three dairies, two were used only for the cold storage and distribution of bottled pasteurised milk. The third is in premises equipped with a high-temperature short-time pasteurising apparatus and other modern fittings. Frequent inspections of these dairies have been made, and particular attention has been paid to the last mentioned dairy, where a considerable proportion of the milk consumed in the Borough is pasteurised; it is used daily to its fullest capacity. The milk sold from this dairy is augmented by pasteurised supplies from other processing plants operated by the firm in parts of London and the Home Counties. Frequent samples of the pasteurised milk were taken, both on the premises and on the round, and results were invariably satisfactory.

A detailed report on the samples of milk which were taken in 1957 from producers and distributors, and submitted for bacteriological examination, is given in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

Hairdressers' and Barbers' Establishments

The premises used for the purpose of carrying on the business of hairdresser or barber in the Borough are now subject to bye-laws made in 1954 under Section 135 of the Surrey County Council Act, 1936. These bye-laws require the persons carrying on the business to maintain cleanliness of the premises and of the instruments, towels, equipment and materials used therein. During 1957 no serious infringement of the bye-laws was noted, but owing to pressure of other work it was only possible to make 9 inspections, involving 5 premises. At the end of the year, the register of premises contained particulars of 19 men's and 24 women's establishments.

Factories Act, 1937

The Table on page 39 shows in detail the various trades in the Borough that come within the scope of the Act. During the year 65 inspections were made. The Register of factories has been further brought up-to-date and now contains 212 entries; in 10 cases defects relating particularly to sanitary accommodation and general cleanliness were discovered; defects in 10 factories were remedied. H.M. Inspector of Factories drew attention to defects in 5 of the above cases which came within the sections of the Factories Act enforceable by the Local Authority.

In accordance with Section 34 relating to means of escape in case of fire, three factories were re-examined at the request of the occupiers, in consequence of alterations made to the premises since the original examination was made several years previously. Amended certificates were issued in these cases. The examinations are made in consultation with a Fire Prevention Officer of the Surrey Fire Brigade, who has often been able to suggest to the factory managements improvements in details relating to fire prevention, which is an aspect of the matter not covered by Section 34 and is not the primary responsibility of the District Council.

Factories Act, 1937 - List of Factories
on Register at end of 1956

	<u>Mechanical</u> <u>Power</u>	<u>No</u> <u>Mechanical</u> <u>Power</u>
Agricultural Engineers	2	-
Art Leather Works	1	-
Bakers	15	-
Basket Work	1	-
Book Binder	1	-
Boot Makers and Repairers	5	-
Brick Makers, etc.	3	-
Builders and Contractors	6	4
Cabinet Makers and Upholsterers	5	1
Cork Disc and Stopper Manufacturers	2	-
Corn and Seed Merchants	3	-
Cycle Makers, Repairers and Vulcanisers	2	2
Dairy (Milk Processing)	1	-
Dressmakers and Milliners	2	3
Dry Cleaners	3	-
Engineers Automobile	23	-
Engineers Electrical	3	1
Engineers Light	30	-
Essence Makers	1	-
Food Manufacturers	5	-
Foundries	2	-
Fullers Earth Works	1	-
Gas Holder Stations	2	-
Glass Cutting and Paint Packing	1	-
Hardware Assembly	1	-
Hearthstone Works	1	-
Hide Tanning	1	-
Knacker's Yard	-	1
Laundries	4	-
Log Sawing	1	-
Marquee and Tarpaulin Repairers	1	-
Mattress Manufacturer	1	-
Mineral Water Manufacturer	1	-
Monumental Masons and Undertakers	-	2
Motor Body Repairs	6	-
Newspaper Fudging	3	-
Oil Refining	1	-
Photographic Works	-	1
Pianoforte Repairers	-	1
Precast Concrete Manufacturers	1	-
Printers	9	-
Public Works Contractor	1	-
Rubber Trimming	1	-
Rust Proofing	1	-
Sanitary Engineers	1	2
Scale Repairers	2	-
Sewing Machine Repairs	2	-
Shoeing and General Smiths	-	2
Shop Fitters	1	-
Soldering Outfit Assembly	-	1
Steel Wool Manufacturer	1	-
Suitcase Manufacturer	1	-
Tailors	2	2
Thermometer Manufacturer	1	-
Timber Merchants	3	-
Watchmakers	2	1
Wax Refining Works	1	-
Building Sites and Works of Engineering Construction	17	-
TOTALS	188	24

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

There is only one factory which is subject to the provisions of this Act - one in which spring mattresses are manufactured. This is registered in accordance with Section 2. No samples of rag flock or other fillings were taken during 1957.

Housing Act, 1957

Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954 and Rent Act, 1957

Housing Subsidies Act, 1956

Slum Clearance (Compensation) Act, 1956

As indicated by this heading, there has been new and amended legislation in recent years dealing with the question of housing. It has resulted in considerable activity in the various Departments of Local Authorities which are concerned with this subject, and experience locally shows that co-ordination of effort and co-operation between the officers concerned is of the greatest importance. The Public Health Inspectors, since the housing survey of 1955, have been engaged in the detailed inspection of unfit dwellings, in accordance with the five-year programme of clearance which was drawn up following the survey; during 1957, 181 houses were inspected for all purposes, including the above. They have also been actively engaged in the inspection work which has followed the application made by tenants for certificates of disrepair under the Rent Acts; 27 such applications have been received, of which three were withdrawn, one application was refused and 23 were granted. The latest Rent Act increased the work of the Department considerably, not only in the work of inspection, but in dealing with the many enquiries made by owners and tenants who have found the provisions of this Act, its procedures and prescribed forms, complicated and difficult to understand.

There is, however, no doubt that the clearance of unfit houses and the improvement, modernisation and repair of the others which warrant this attention has received an impetus which, if maintained, must have a marked and beneficial effect on general living conditions. Whilst on the subject of improvement and modernisation, it is noted that 75 applications for an Improvement Grant were referred by the Borough Surveyor to this Department for comment and observations.

A point is now being reached when the cost of repair of most houses cannot be considered unreasonable, having regard to the additional income accruing to the owners; the efforts of Public Health Inspectors must, therefore, now increasingly return to that aspect of their work which took up much of their time before the war - known in Public Health Departments as routine house-to-house inspections. This work should be concentrated on the types of property which, though neglected from the point of view of maintenance in past years, are nevertheless sound in structure, satisfactory in general arrangement, and which warrant improvement and modernisation. It will probably be found that much of the repair work found by these inspections to be necessary will have to be brought informally to the owners' attention, and persuasion will, in most cases, have to be brought to bear to have all the necessary works carried out, as the "standard of fitness" which now forms the yard stick of what constitutes unfitness for human habitation would seem to exclude from schedules of repair many items which were previously included and accepted by owners without question. Persuasion will also continue to take the place of enforcement in obtaining the improvements and amenities in dwelling-houses which most people now demand as a minimum in their standard of housing accommodation. Inspectors will continue during their day-to-day work amongst houses and their occupants to encourage the tenant to purchase the house he lives in (particularly the younger married couples), and the people living in sub-tenancies to consider the advantages to be gained by having as their goal the purchase, in due course, of their own house. During the inspection of any given area, the superior standard of house maintenance, both externally and internally, of the owner/occupier is clearly defined, and it is in this direction that we must look if we are to save our pre-war and rent-controlled houses from serious deterioration and their premature demolition and replacement.

The publicity which has been given to the renewal of the clearance of unfit houses has led to many enquiries being received, both from owners and prospective purchasers, as to whether the houses in which they are interested are likely to be the subject of action by the Local Authority. During 1957 these enquiries related to 24 properties. This work entails a considerable time spent in interviews, but it is hoped that the information and advice which it is possible to give has been helpful, if only to put prospective purchasers on their guard against buying property which later may be deemed to be unfit.

Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order, 1957

This Order, which came into operation on the 1st June, 1957, placed on Local Authorities responsible for the administration of legislation relating to the diseases of animals the duty of inspecting and licensing boiling-plants used by the collectors of waste food; these foods may, if not boiled for one hour, spread foot-and-mouth and other animal diseases. Previously such plants were licensed directly by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food who, on relinquishing this responsibility, sent particulars of three boiling-plants in the Borough which were then licensed under a previous Order.

The inspections which were made after the Order had become operative showed that, though the plants referred to were capable of sterilising waste foods, the question of a reasonable standard of hygiene in connection with the plant and premises had never been considered in any way; it was not, of course, referred to in the Order. Conditions were far from satisfactory, and in the course of subsequent visits to other premises where pig-keeping was discovered, similar conditions of nuisance existed. Requests for an immediate abatement of nuisance led to a general improvement, although in one case authority to take statutory action had to be obtained.

Applications for new licences were received from three pig-keepers; two of these were granted, but in one case the applicant was unable to make the extensive improvements necessary, and gave up this particular branch of his business. This was the course followed in three other cases where conditions constituted a nuisance. A licence was also granted in respect of one of the boiling-plants originally dealt with by the Ministry.

Complaints

The following is a summary of the complaints received during the year:-

Insanitary condition of premises	..	..	..	..	..	35
Defective dustbin	..	..	..	..	..	3
House drainage	..	..	..	..	..	27
Cesspools overflowing	..	..	..	..	..	3
Non-removal of house refuse	..	..	..	..	..	3
Kitchen-waste street-bins	..	..	..	..	..	1
Rats or Mice	..	..	..	..	..	322
Other Vermin (Foxes, Badgers, etc.)	..	..	..	..	..	11
Verminous premises	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other insect pests	..	..	..	..	..	4
Wasps nests	..	..	..	..	..	82
Unsound food (sold)	..	..	..	..	..	8
Keeping of animals, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	2
Smoke nuisance	..	..	..	..	..	6
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	5
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	41

Notices Issued and Action Taken

The following Table is a statement of the notices dealt with during the year:-

Preliminary -

Outstanding on 1st January, 1957	..	..	..	..	94
Issued during year	..	..	..	..	137
Complied with during year	..	..	..	..	132
Statutory action necessary	..	..	..	..	1
Outstanding on 31st December, 1957	..	..	..	..	98

Statutory -

Outstanding on 1st January, 1957	..	..	..	..	-
Issued during year	..	..	..	..	1
Complied with during year	..	..	..	..	1
Outstanding on 31st December, 1957	..	..	..	..	-

Nuisances Abated, Defects Remedied, etc.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year, both voluntarily and in consequence of notices in respect of dwelling-houses, food premises, factories, and other business premises.

Dwelling-houses

Roofs repaired	10
Eaves-gutters and stack-pipes repaired	7
Chimney-stacks rebuilt or repaired	3
Pointing or otherwise weatherproofing of brickwork (houses)	3
Horizontal damp-proof course inserted	1
Other causes of dampness remedied	7
Drains examined or tested (primary inspections only) ..	104
Drainage systems repaired, extended or relaid	40
Sink gulley dishings renewed or repaired	8
Blocked drains cleared	21
Soil or ventilation pipes installed or renewed	17
New W.Cs. installed	23
W.C. apparatus renewed or repaired	8
Cesspools abolished	1
Existing house drains connected to public sewer	1
Sewage treatment plants or cesspools installed	2
Sewage treatment plants or cesspools repaired	1
Rooms cleansed or redecorated	14
Plaster of walls and/or ceilings repaired	17
Floors repaired or renewed	16
Window frames or sashcords repaired	13
Staircases repaired	6
Doors repaired or renewed	6
Food stores provided	7
Sinks renewed or installed	8
Washhand basins renewed or installed	19
Waste pipes trapped or repaired	7
Water supply pipes repaired or installed	5
Baths installed	17
Dustbins renewed	3
Accumulations removed	1
Other nuisances abated	9

Food Premises:

Sanitary accommodation improved	7
Drainage system improved	1
Rooms cleansed and/or redecorated	32
Plaster of walls and/or ceilings repaired	23
Windows repaired	1
Floors repaired or renewed	17
Rat-proofing carried out	1
Preparation tables repaired or renewed	4
Washhand basins installed	17
Ablution facilities otherwise improved	9
Sinks renewed or installed	12
Constant hot water supply installed	19
Accumulations removed	2
Dustbins renewed	3
Other nuisances abated	40

Factories:

Sanitary accommodation improved	9
Rooms cleansed	2

Other Business Premises:

Redecorations and improvements	3
Sanitary accommodation improved	1
W.C. apparatus renewed or repaired	1
W.Cs. cleansed	1
Drainage system improved or repaired	1
Other nuisances abated	12

Fairground Sanitation

The necessity for the supervision and control of sanitary conditions on land occupied for short periods by fairs, circuses, etc., has been explained in previous reports. Frequent visits of inspection are made on every occasion when land is so used; proprietors of these businesses are assisted by the emptying and cleansing service provided by the Borough Surveyor, for which a charge of 15/- a day is made. The institution of this service and the accompanying inspections has been proved by experience to be well worth while, and there is now a considerable improvement in these conditions.

Heating Appliances (Fire Guards) Act, 1952, and Regulations, 1953

Inspections during the year revealed no infringement of the Act.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 - Rodent Control

The results of the year's work under this heading are shown in the tabulated statement given below.

		<u>Type of Property</u>				<u>Total</u>
		<u>Local</u> <u>Author-</u> <u>ity</u>	<u>#</u> <u>Dwelling</u> <u>Houses</u>	<u>Agri-</u> <u>cul-</u> <u>tural</u>	<u>All other</u> <u>(including</u> <u>Business &</u> <u>Industrial)</u>	
I.	Total No. of properties in Local Authority's district	28	14,638	54	2,238	16,958
II.	No. of properties inspected during 1957 as a result of:-					
	(a) Notification	9	245	7	61	322
	(b) Survey	19	414	39	130	602
	(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for another purpose)	-	100	-	514	614
III.	Total inspections including re-inspections	60	1,539	81	1,049	2,729
IV.	No. of properties inspected (under II) found to be infested by:-					
	(a) Rats	17	198	7	41	263
	(b) Mice	2	50	-	17	69
V.	No. of infested properties (under IV) treated by Local Authority	19	241	7	58	325
VI.	No. of "block control" schemes carried out	-	18	-	-	18

≡ Council houses are included under dwelling-houses

Work undertaken by the Pests Officers met with the co-operation of all concerned, so that it was unnecessary to resort to statutory action to secure the inspection or the treatment of infested properties. The service of these officers are at the disposal of householders for a purely nominal charge, which is a token of the occupier's legal responsibility - 2/6d. an hour, with a minimum charge of 5/-d., which includes the cost of any material used. No charge, of course, is made for time spent on inspections or giving advice. In practice it is found that the minimum charge is not often exceeded, and that householders are glad to avail themselves of expert practical assistance in dealing with a pest which is so destructive and a potential menace to health. The making of this small charge has not been found to deter occupiers from reporting infestations, and there is little administrative difficulty in collecting these small amounts. In the case

of business premises, the occupier is expected to meet the full cost of services rendered; in such cases there is a minimum charge of 15/-d., or the actual cost of the work (calculated on the basis of 10/- an hour), whichever is the greater.

The annual testing, and treatment by baiting and poisoning, of the Borough's sewerage system was commenced in 1945, and has continued regularly twice a year since then. This systematic work was first undertaken to reduce a large and extensive population of rats living and breeding underground in the sewers; where sewer defects existed, these undoubtedly led to serious rat infestations aboveground. Due mainly to the thorough and conscientious manner in which the detailed work has been carried out by the Pests Officer, assisted by sewer men allocated for this work by the Borough Surveyor, the results have been most satisfactory. After the last treatment in December, 1957, a complete clearance was recorded. The poisons used for this work have until recently been zinc-phosphide and arsenic, used alternately during the twice yearly treatments. On the last occasion during 1957, the newer poison "Warfarin" was used for the first time. This was made possible by treating the baits with a preservative material, paranitrophenol, recently recommended for this purpose by the Ministry's technical officers.

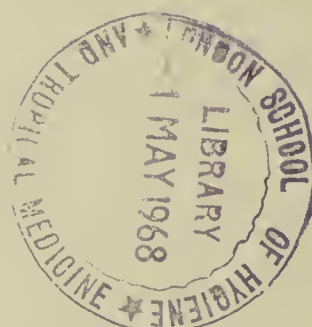
Other important points where the Pests Officers can exert systematic control are at the Council's Refuse & Sewage Disposal Works, and along the banks of the stream which flows through the centre of Redhill and through the built-up portion of the Earlswood area. Regular and systematic poison baiting at both these points has been effective.

Rodent control work has also been carried out on railway properties at the request of the District Engineer of British Railways (Southern Region). There has also been useful co-operation with the Pests Officer of the Surrey Agricultural Executive Committee, who controls a staff of operatives available to assist farmers by routine inspections, etc., under contract terms.

The work mentioned above also does not include work carried out under contract arrangements with:

- (a) the Surrey County Council at all their premises in this Borough; these include the Public Assistance Institution and its ancillary Homes, 30 schools and 9 school kitchens, day nursery, clinics, fire brigade premises, etc.;
- (b) the Group Hospital Management Committee at the Redhill County Hospital;
- (c) one commercial firm, involving regular routine inspections of five premises owned by a local dairy.

In addition to the work of rodent control described above, the Pests Officers have been employed in dealing with other pests affecting Corporation properties and land, such as rabbits, foxes, badgers, moles, wood pigeons, etc. Householders and others were assisted in the destruction of 82 wasps nests during the summer and autumn season. The recurring nuisance caused by pigeons nesting on buildings in the centre of Redhill about which complaints were received from shopkeepers and others in the district, was relieved by routine trapping throughout the year.



22/68